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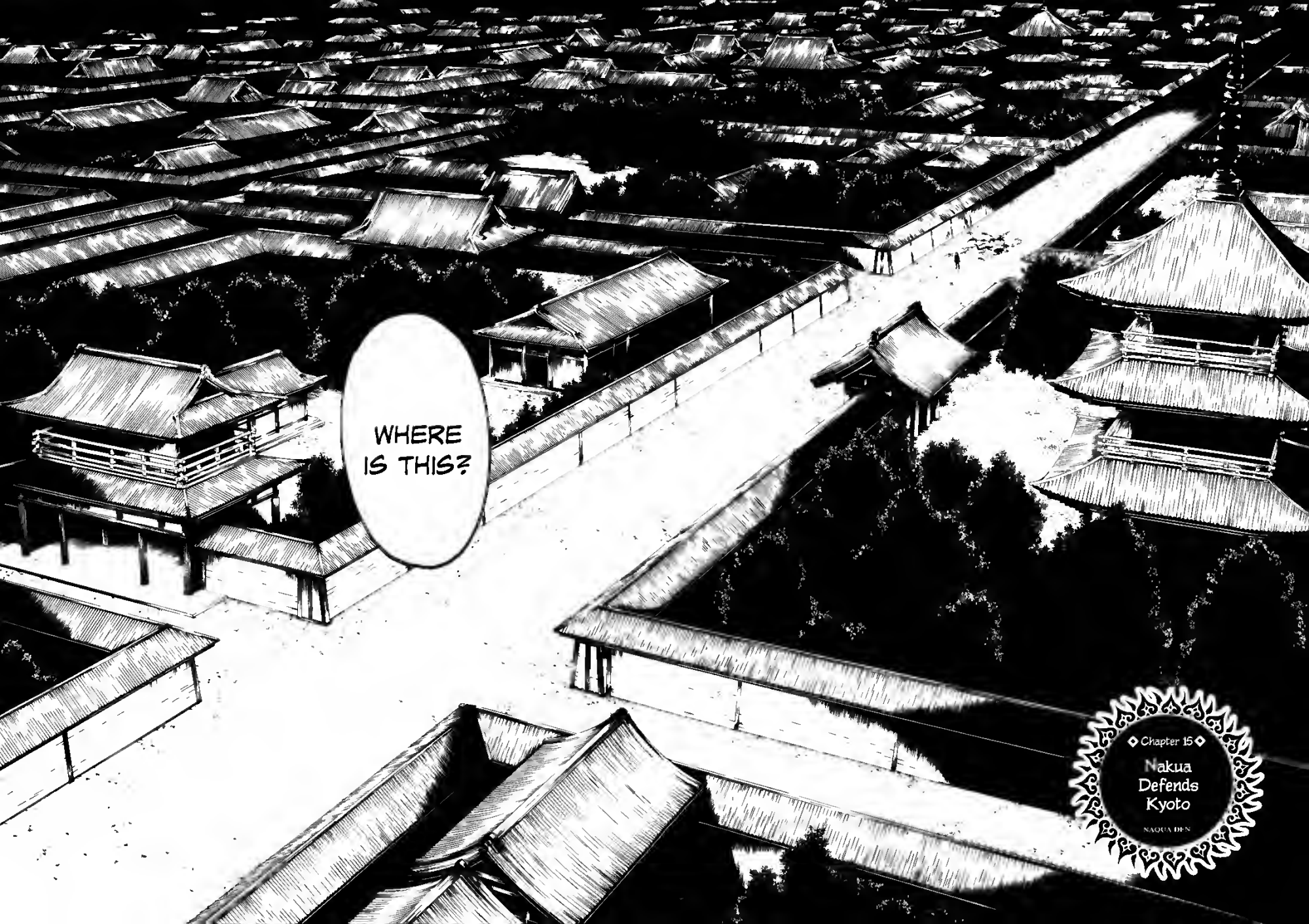
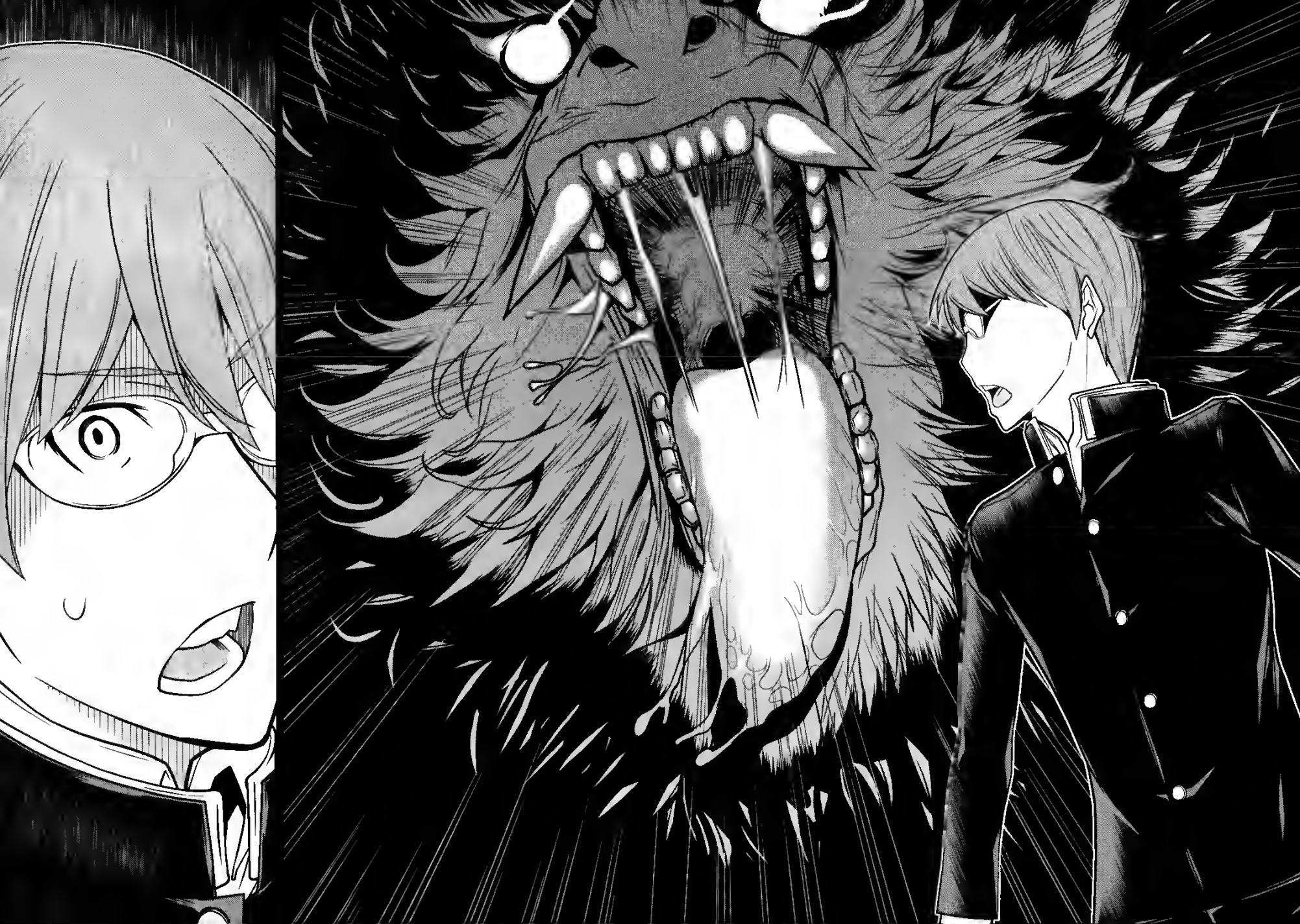
OW-OW...
....
THAT HURTS....
IT FEELS LIKE MY ENTIRE BODY IS SQUEAK-ING....
....
HUH...?
HM...

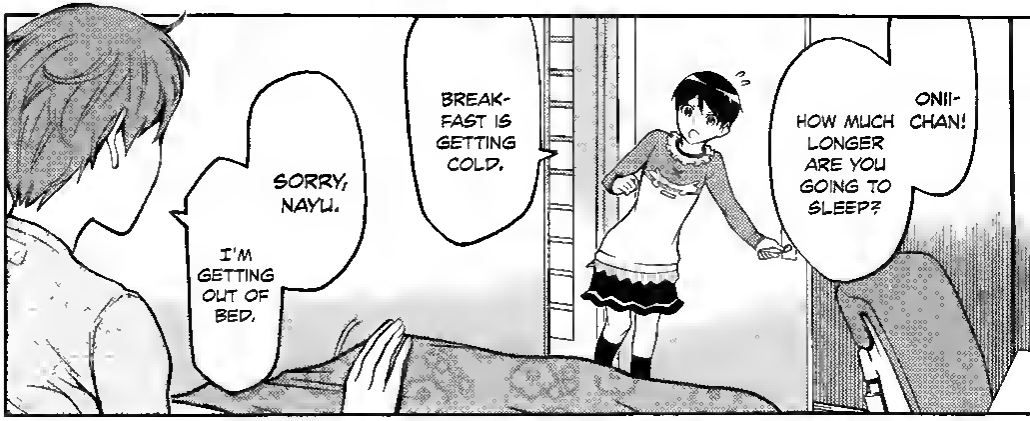

WHERE IS THIS?
Chapter 15
Nakua Defends Kyoto
NAQUA DEN

LOTS OF BLOOD ON THE WALL....
AND HUGE TORN-OFF BLACK SPIDER LEGS ON THE GROUND...
IT LOOKS TOO OMINOUS....
DON'T TELL ME SOMETHING BAD HAPPENED TO NAKUA-SAN.....
...I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING.

....WEIRD. I'VE BEEN WALKING FOR LIKE 10 MINUTES.
AND I'M ONLY SEEING OLD-FASHIONED BUILDINGS.
AND THERE'S NOT A SINGLE STREET LIGHT ON EVEN THOUGH IT'S NIGHT.
...THIS...
WHAT'S...
WHAT...?
SOMETHING IS.... COMING.



Beep
I GOT EATEN...
Beep
...
Beep
Beep
Beep
Beep
THE PAIN WAS SO SEVERE THAT I STARTED FEELING NUMB HALFWAY THROUGH.
PERHAPS, SOME SUBSTANCE OR SOMETHING WAS COMING OUT FROM MY BRAIN


ONII-CHAN! HOW MUCH LONGER ARE YOU GOING TO SLEEP?
BREAKFAST IS GETTING COLD.
SORRY, NAYU. I'M GETTING OUT OF BED.

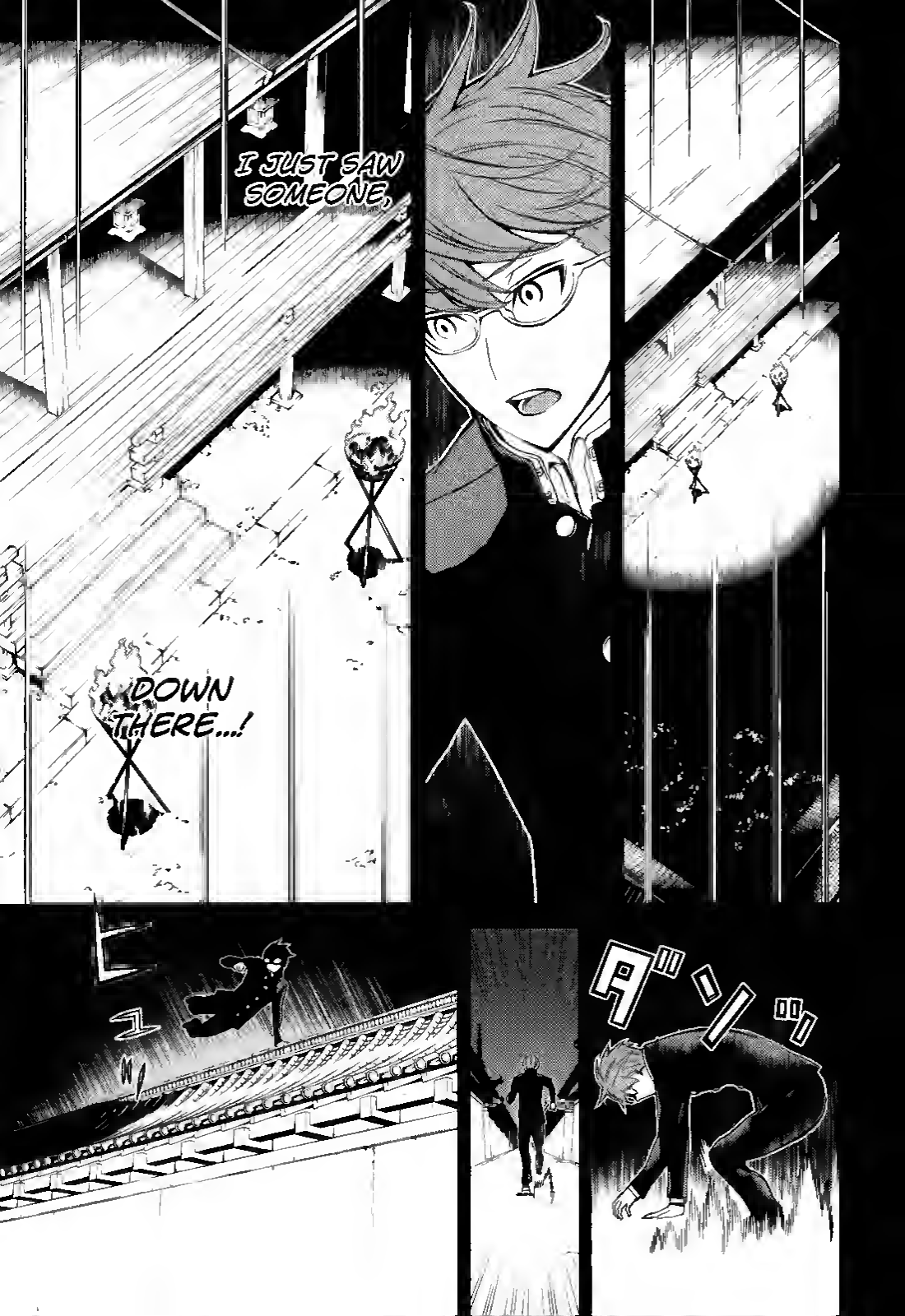
...A DREAM?
THAT VIVID SENSATION WAS...

...SO
...IS
AND
...A DREAM.
...NO, I'M SURE IT WASN'T...
WHAT'S THIS FEELING... ?
IT SCARES THE SHIT OUT OF ME TO RECALL IT...

!
THIS IS THAT DREAM WORLD...
...FROM LAST NIGHT?
A DREAM...
NO, IT'S NOT.

THERE'S NO WAY THIS IS A DREAM.
THIS SMELL OF THE AIR, THE FEELING OF THE WIND BLOWING MY HAIR,
A''
A''
A''
A''
A''
A''

HOLY SHIT....
THE TOWN WAS THIS BIG...!


I JUST SAW SOMEONE,
DOWN THERE...!
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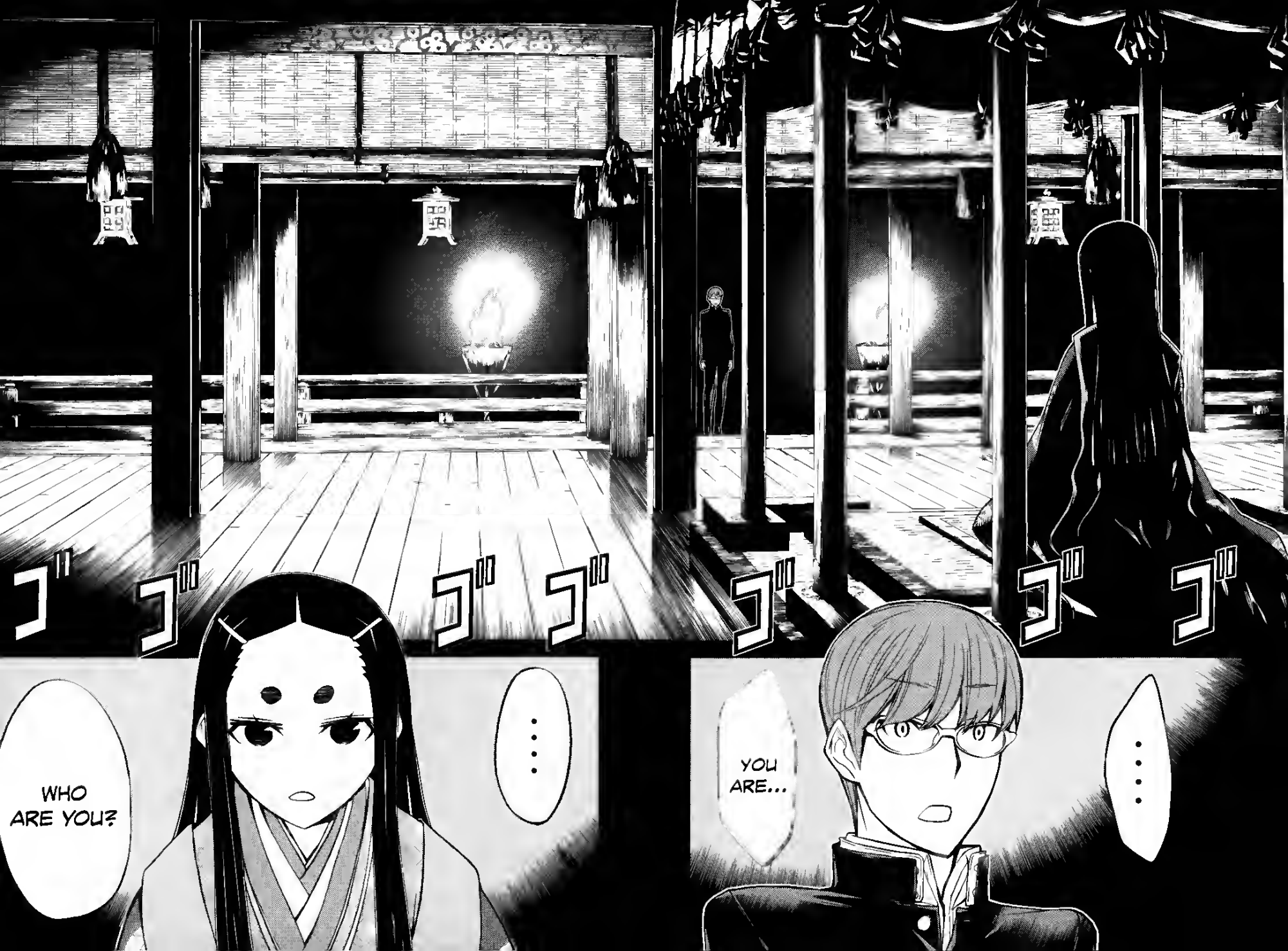
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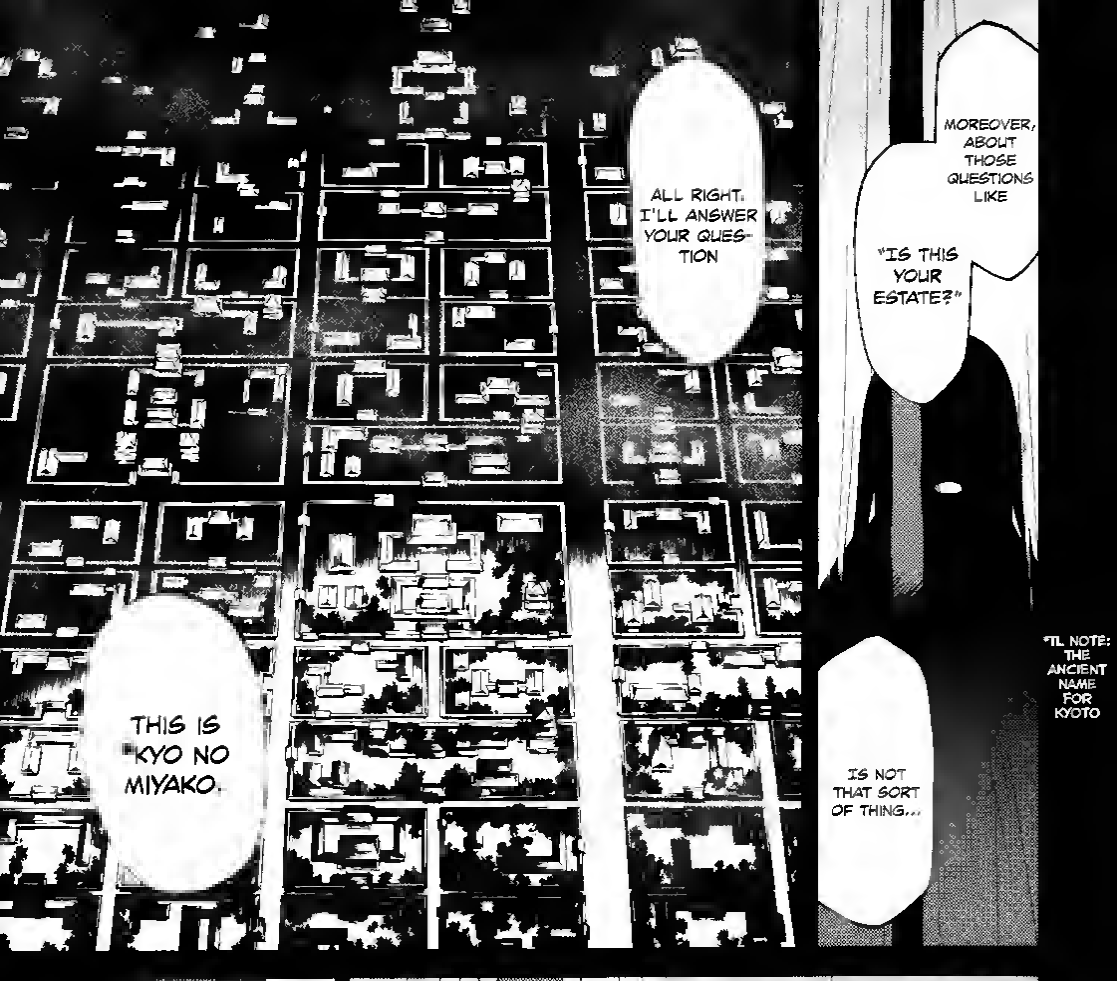
WHO ARE YOU?
...
YOU ARE...
...

...NAKUA-SAN, RIGHT?
FWIP FWIP
...
I WON'T INTRO DUCE MYSELF TO...
...A LOWER CLASS PERSON LIKE YOU.
...
Wha?

I DON'T KNOW YOU.
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR SERVANT....
IT'S ME,
KANDA TARO.
CAN YOU TELL ME THIS ONE THING?
...
LEAVE NOW.
GUYS LIKE YOU AREN'T ALLOWED TO BE HERE.
WHERE,
IS THIS?

GYAAAAAA
HE APPEARED.
APPEARED?
YOU MEAN THAT MONSTER?
HMPH.
YOU,
THAT WAS A WEIRD QUESTION YOU JUST ASKED.


ALL RIGHT. I'LL ANSWER YOUR QUESTION
THIS IS *KYO NO MIYAKO.
MOREOVER, ABOUT THOSE QUESTIONS LIKE
"IS THIS YOUR ESTATE?"
IS NOT THAT SORT OF THING...

*TL NOTE: THE ANCIENT NAME FOR KYOTO

YOU WOKE UP?
KANDA TARO...
SENSEI.
....
WHICH ERA DID EMPEROR KONOE LIVE...?
!
!
!
....
...THE LAST YEARS OF THE HEIAN ERA.
SHE RE-SPOND-ED!
What about it?
A WEIRD BATTLE STARTED!

The last years of the Heian era...!?
HEY, IT'S YOU, KANDA.
YOU CAME TO SEE GINKO-SAN?
WAIT A MINUTE.
NO, I'M NOT HERE FOR THAT.
THEN, YOU CAME TO SEE ME...?
...
NOT THAT EITHER.
THEN, TO OFFER PRAYERS AT THE SHRINE?
...YEAH, SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
Isn't Nakua-san here...?

.....!?
I...
...WASN'T ASLEEP...?
WHY?
I CAME HERE AGAIN...?

IF THIS HUGE SPIDER LEG ISN'T NAKUA-SAN'S,
AND...
COULD IT BE JIRO-MARU'S... ?
MAYBE I GOT SUCKED INTO THIS WORLD.
OR CAP-TURED ...
Like that.
I DON'T GET IT.
I WONDER IF NAKUA-SAN IS,
IN THAT SAME PLACE...
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...WHO ARE YOU?
...YOU'RE NAKUA-SAN, RIGHT?
I WON'T INTRODUCE MYSELF TO A GUY LIKE YOU.
I'M KANDA TARO...
I DON'T KNOW YOU.
OUR CONVERSATION HAS BEEN RESETTED...
WELL...
EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT A PERSON FROM THIS WORLD, I GET SENT HERE BEFORE I KNOW IT
OVER AND OVER AGAIN
TO THE SAME PLACE, ON THE SAME TIME.
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

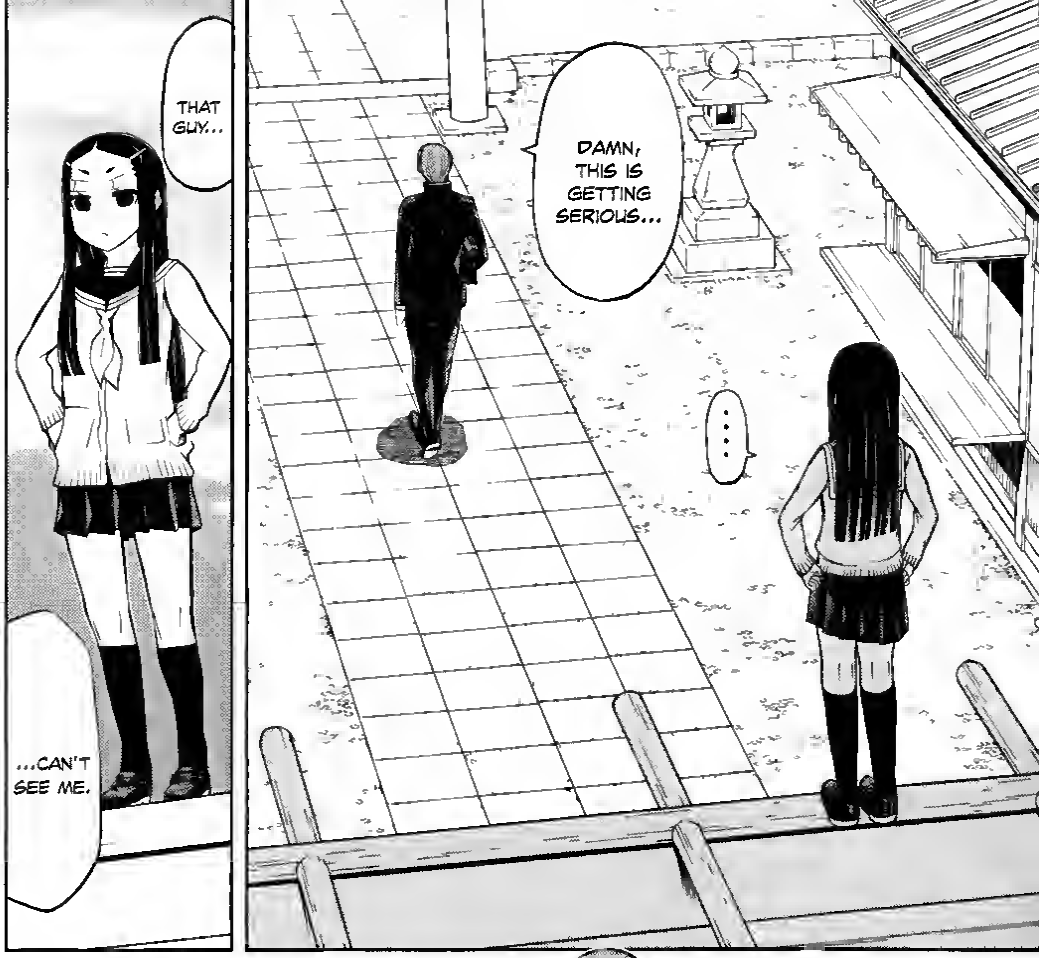
A HUGE, FAST, DANGER-OUS ONE.
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU.
SOON SOMEONE WILL GET ATTACKED AND YOU'LL HEAR A SCREAM.
I GUESS NOT...
HMM... OH THE YEAH, MONSTER WILL APPEAR SOON.
ALL THE CITIZENS IN KYO NO MIYAKO KNOW IT.
I KNOW IT ALREADY.
...YOU DON'T NEED TO REMIND ME OF THAT.
THAT COULD MEAN JIRO-MARU... GOT INJURED WHEN HE FOUGHT WITH THE MONSTER...
OOO IS THAT SO.
NO ONE IS ABLE TO WALK THE OUTSIDE IN THE NIGHT THANKS TO HIM.
NO ONE KNOWS WHAT TO DO.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

I DON'T REMEMBER USING JIRO-MARU.
WHAT I SENT TO KILL THE MONSTER IS,
TARO-MARU.
WHY,
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MY SERVANT?
BE-CAUSE...
I'M
TARO-MARU...!

GYAAAAAAAA
HOW CAN I GET OUT OF THIS WOR...?
PLEASE TELL ME, NAKUA-SAN.
WHAT AM I SUP-POSED TO DO?
SCREAM...!?
SOMEONE GOT ATTACKED ...?
I'LL GIVE YOU THIS.
ALL RIGHT.

!?
IT'S CALLED THE BOW OF RAIJOUDOU.
THIS IS ORIGINALLY THE BOW THAT MINAMOTO NO YORIMASA INHERITED FROM HIS ANCESTOR MINAMOTO NO YORIMITSU WHO IS KNOWN FOR EXTERMINATING SHUTENDOUJI IN MT. OOE
I STRETCHED A STRING ON THE BOW BY MYSELF FOR THIS OCCASION.
ANY PERSON WITH NORMAL PHYSICAL STRENGTH...
...WOULDN'T EVEN BE ABLE TO DRAW THAT BOW.

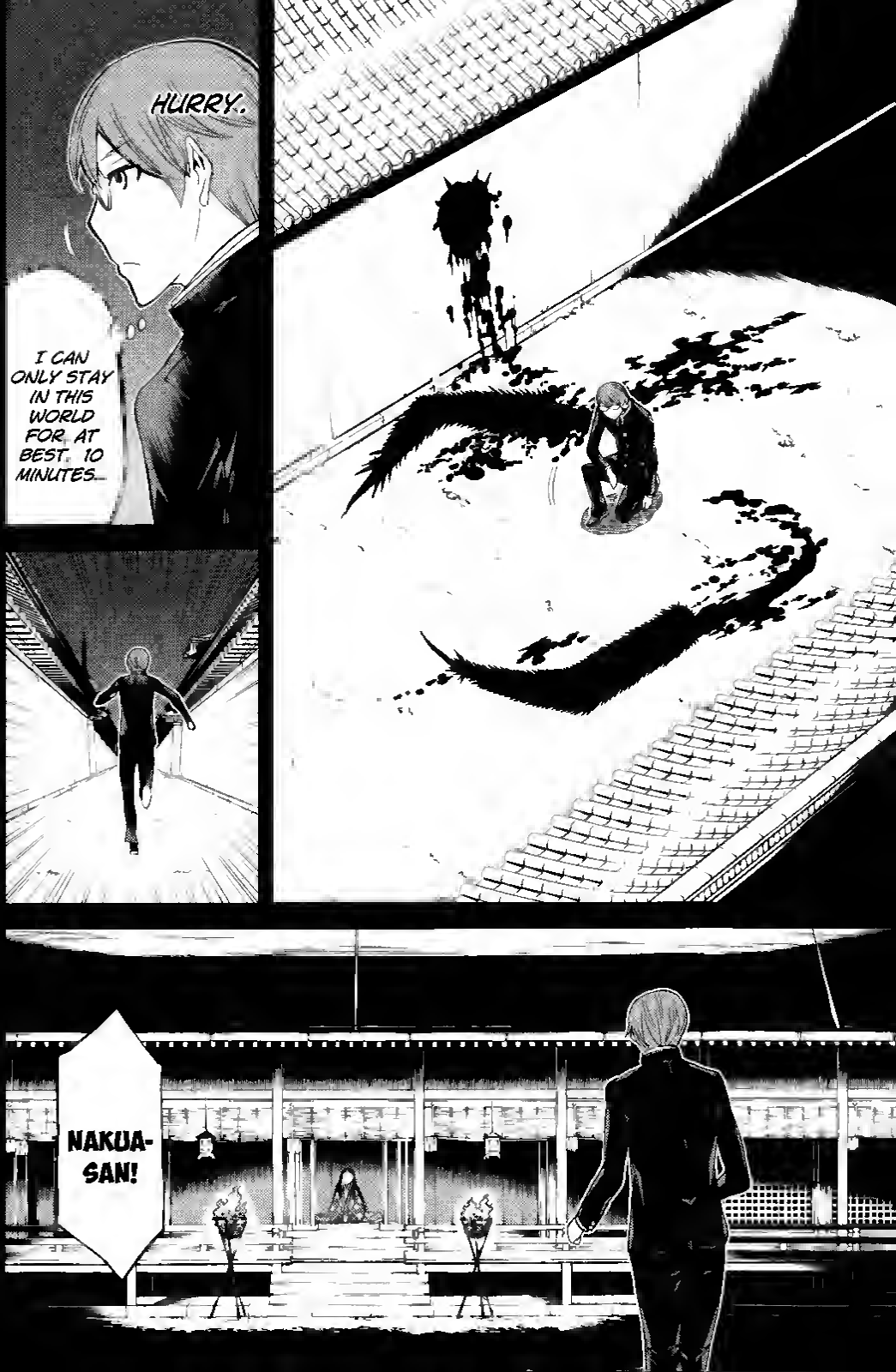
IF YOU REALLY ARE TARO-MARU,
USE THIS BOW AND EXTERMINATE THE MONSTER.
EXTERMI-NATE THE MONSTER....
...I UNDER-STAND.
I'LL TR...
...HEY, I'M BACK TO THE ORIGINAL WORLD NOW.
WHAT'S THIS TIME LIMIT?
IT'S TOO SHORT, ISN'T IT?


THAT GUY...
...CAN'T SEE ME.
DAMN, THIS IS GETTING SERIOUS...
....

I CAN HARDLY SENSE THE PRESENCE OF MY SERVANT FROM *THAT* GUY.
MORE IMPORTANTLY.

...HE'S NO DIFFERENT FROM A NORMAL HUMAN NOW.

I'M BACK.
...ONII-CHAN?
WHAT'S WRONG?
...NO, IT'S NOTHING.
SOMEHOW... I'M SO SLEEPY.
COULD YOU WAKE ME UP WHEN THE DINNER IS READY.
NAYU?
OKAY...
...I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
IT'S PRETTY UNUSUAL FOR YOU TO BE IN A BAD SHAPE.


HURRY.
I CAN ONLY STAY IN THIS WORLD FOR AT BEST, 10 MINUTES...
NAKUA-SAN!

...WHO ARE YOU?
WELL... I'M YOUR SERVANT, THE INCARNATION OF TARO-MARU.
I'M GONNA EXTERMINATE THE MONSTER, SO PLEASE GIVE ME...
...THE BOW OF RAIDOU-JOU.
I HAVE TO START OVER AGAIN...
PLEASE UNDERSTAND THIS....!
...
A!!

WHERE'S THE MONSTER?
WAIT.
THIS IS BAD.. I HAVEN'T GOT TIME TO FIND HIM.
CALM DOWN.. OH YEAH, I SHOULD GO THERE...
WHERE'S HE..?

THIS IS
THE MONSTER...!?

YOU WOKE UP, TARO...
GINKO-SAN.
STAY IN THE BED.
....
NAKUA-SAN....?
THE SPIDER-GOD WAS RIGHT.
I SEE. YOU'RE IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE.
...IN CRITICAL CONDITION.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THE MIND OF THE BIG SPIDER WHO'S RESTING INSIDE OF YOUR BODY IS...
I DON'T GET THIS,

THAT'S WHY YOUR BODY IS RAPIDLY LOSING.
TARO-MARU'S POWER.
AND IT'S ALSO CAUSING YOUR BODY TO WEAKEN.
AT THIS RATE, IT'LL BE FATAL FOR YOU, SHE SAYS.
NO IDEA.
...SO WHAT DO I DO NOW?
BUT THE SPIDER GOD SAID SHE UNDERSTOOD EVERYTHING.
UNDERSTOOD... WHAT'S THAT SUPPO...
"OH, TARO-MARU.
HOW TERRIBLE YOU'RE DEAD."

...THIS PLACE IS INSIDE THE MEMORIES OF TARO-MARU, WHO RESTS INSIDE MY BODY.
AND IT'S 900-YEAR-OLD MEMORY....

I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE MONSTER IS.
BUT BEFORE MY TIME LIMIT COMES, HE'LL DEFINITELY SHOW UP HERE,
WHERE WE FIRST MET.
THE CHANCE WILL BE...
ONLY FOR AN INSTANT...!

FREE!
AND SET HIS TRAPPED MIND
AND AVENGE
TARO-MARU
THIS GUY
I'LL KILL
IN THESE
FEW MINUTES BEFORE TARO-MARU'S MEMORY DISAPPEARS

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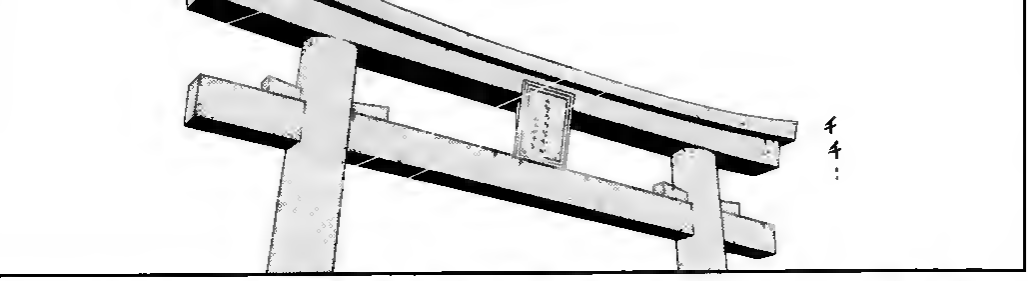
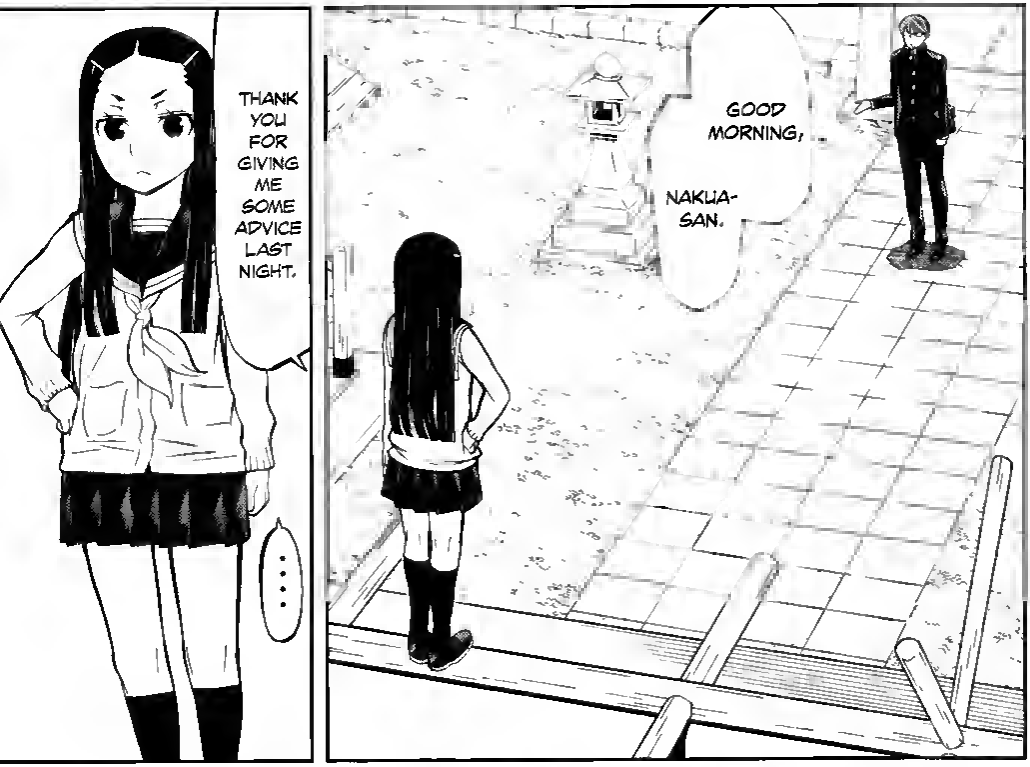
I'LL GET THE MONSTER.
I, INO HAYATA, WILL STAB HIM 9 TIMES TO DEATH WITH THE SWORD YORIMASA EMPEROR GAVE ME AND OFFER THE BODY TO HIM.
...IS TARO MARU WHO'S RESTING INSIDE OF ME...
... AVENGED NOW...?
HOW ARE YOU.
GU EE EE
DIE!
TARO-MARU ...?
DIE!
GU EE EE
GU EE EE EE EE EE





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NAQUA-DEN

BY MITSUNAGA YASUNORI

CHAPTER 15: NAKUA DEFENDS KYOTO